IMPLEMENTATION OF PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGEMENT
SOFTWARE VERSION 3.0

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive informs facilities that the Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Software Version 3.0 must be installed at all sites no later than July 1, 1999, and all future versions of the PBM software within 30 days of release.

2. BACKGROUND: Commercial PBM organizations use prescription claims data to administer the drug benefits for insurance companies. For the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and cost of drug use, patient specific information is necessary. Installation of the PBM software is necessary for utilization analysis and contracting, patient safety, and pharmacoepidemiologic research. ***NOTE:*** *Data captured by the PBM software will replace the workload data previously found in the Automated Management Information System (AMIS).*

3. POLICY: VA facilities will activate this software no later July 1**,** 1999. All future versions of the PBM software will be installed within 30 days of release by the Chief Information Officer (CIO)'s office.

4. ACTION

   a. **Responsibilities**. Pharmacy Services' managers will meet with the responsible Information Management official(s) to ensure the PBM software is installed. Pharmacy Services' managers must assure the data extract is transmitted monthly to the PBM field Office, Hines, IL

   b. **Procedures**

   (1) Install the software according to instructions provided in the installation guide. It is recommended that the Pharmacy and Information Resource Management (IRM) personnel be added to the PSU PBM mail group. The Laboratory Information Manager (LIM) at each facility should be added to the mail group to monitor data extracted from the Laboratory files.

   (2) To ensure transmission of data the DPPM.MED.VA.GOV domain needs to exist at each facility.

   (3) Schedule the PSU PBM AUTO option to be executed on a monthly basis at a time when there will be the least amount of activity on the system.

   (4) Each facility should use the PBM software to transmit data from October 1, 1998, to the beginning date of the automatic monthly extract.

THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2004

5. REFERENCES: None.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: The Chief Consultant, Pharmacy Benefits Management Strategic Health Group (119), is responsible for the content of this Directive.

7. RESCISSIONS. This VHA Directive will expire June 30, 2004.

S/ by Thomas Garthwaite, M.D. for
Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H.
Under Secretary for Health

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